

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W

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R 011105Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 441

INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANRIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OX, SF, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES FOREIGN MINISTER OUTLINES FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM GUY SINON, IN JUNE 27 RADIO ADDRESS, DELIVERED FIRST STATEMENT TO DATE OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S EXTERNAL AND TOURISM POLICIES. WITH EXCEPTION OF DECIDEDLY STRONGER SUPPORT FOR INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, ADDRESS BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND AND SERVED MAINLY TO CONFIRM AND EXPAND UPON EARLIER PRONOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENT RENE. END SUMMARY.

1. SEYCHELLES FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER GUY SINON, DELIVERING HIS FIRST POLICY ADDRESS SINCE JUNE 5 COUP D'ETAT, SAID SEYCHELLES WOULD BE "COMPLETELY NONALIGNED" SO THAT IT IS NOT FORCED TO AUTOMATICALLY LINE UP WITH "ANY BLOC IRRESPECTIVE OF PARTICULAR INTERNATIONAL ISSUE." HE PLEDGED THAT, WHILE SEYCHELLES WOULD NOT INTEREFERE IN
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INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IT WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO FREELY EXPRESS ITS OPINION ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. SINON CONFIRMED THAT SEYCHELLES WILL CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP IN UN, COMMONWEALTH, OAU AND NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HONORED. (COMMENT: IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN INADVERTENT OMISSION, SINON DID NOT MENTION SEYCHELLES MEMBERSHIP IN OCAM.)

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEYCHELLES RELATIONS WITH CHILE, WHICH SINON SAID WOULD BE REVIEWED, NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL COUNTRIES. SINON NOTED THAT GOOD RELATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED SINCE INDEPENDENCE WITH THE FIVE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (U.S., UK, FRANCE, PRC, SOVIET UNION) AND SAID THESE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. HE CALLED FOR CLOSER TIES WITH OTHER STATES IN THE "WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN" REGION.

3. SINON INTERPRETED THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOZP) CONCEPT TO MEAN THAT THERE SHOULD BE "NO SUPER-POWER MILITARY BASES, FACILITIES OR PERMANENT MILITARY PRESENCE" IN THE REGION. (COMMENT: FORMER PRESIDENT MANCHAM PUBLICLY ESPOUSED IOZP CONCEPT BUT PRIVATELY WELCOMED WESTERN MILITARY PRESENCE AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIETS. THUS FAR, ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM NEW GOVERNMENT INDICATE THAT, DESPITE SINON'S HARD LINE PRESENCE STATEMENT OF U.S.A.F. TRACKING STATION AND U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS IN AREA WILL BE UNAFFECTED).

4. CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICA, SINON SAID SEYCHELLES JOINS OTHERS IN CONDEMNING POLICY OF APARTHEID BUT REITERATED STATEMENT MADE SHORTLY AFTER JUNE 5 COUP D'ETAT BY PRESIDENT RENE THAT SEYCHELLES HAS NO DESIRE TO SEVER ECONOMIC LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE WELCOME TO VISIT SEYCHELLES SO LONG AS THEY RESPECTED SEYCHELLOIS PEOPLE AND WAY OF LIFE.

5. TURNING TO TOURISM, SINON SAID SEYCHELLES WOULD CONTINUE TO
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ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF THIS "MAJOR SECTOR" OF THE ECONOMY AND APOLOGIZED FOR INCONVENIENCES SUFFERED BY TOURISTS IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER COUP. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE SHARP DOWNTURN IN THE NUMBER OF TOURIST VISITORS SINCE THE COUP IS ONLY TEMPORARY. (NOTE: HOTEL OCCUPANCY FELL FROM 80 PER CENT TO ABOUT 30 PER CENT WITH 1,500 CANCELLATIONS IN FIRST TWO WEEKS ALONE).

6. MINISTER SINON DEPARTED SEYCHELLES JUNE 29 FOR OAU SUMMIT IN LIBERVILLE ABOARD SPECIAL AIRCRAFT SUPPLIED BY GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO WHO ALSO SENT A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO SEYCHELLES INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES.
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